

70-707

ADMINISTRATIVE — INTERNAL USE ONLY

MEMORANDUM FOR: Executive Director-Comptroller
 SUBJECT : S.939 -- To Provide a United States Foreign Service Corps

1. This memorandum contains a recommendation for your approval. This recommendation is contained in paragraph 9.
2. Hearings are currently underway on Senate Bill 939. This proposed legislation is to provide full scholarships to enable young men and women of the United States and officers and employees of the Government to obtain undergraduate and graduate degrees in various fields related to foreign relations. This program would be governed by a Board of Trustees whose members would be appointed by the President, Vice President, and the Speaker of the House. The Bill proposes that the functions, powers, and duties of the Foreign Service Institute be transferred from the Secretary of State to the Board.
3. Students undertaking academic work under this proposed legislation would be considered a Foreign Service Corps numbering, at a maximum, 3500 undergraduate students and 1500 graduate students in any academic year. The students in the Foreign Service Corps would be nominated from each state and Congressional District as well as by the President and Vice President. It is anticipated some 8416 applicants will be so nominated each year and will take competitive examinations for admission to the Corps.
4. Each student admitted to the Corps, upon completion of his academic work, will be available for assignment in the discretion of and by the Board for hiring or appointment by the United States in connection with any program of the Government relating to the field of foreign relations conducted by any department or agency of the Government.
5. While the Department of State is obviously the primary department of interest, this Agency is not excluded from the provisions of the Bill.
6. The Department of State, with the concurrence of the Bureau of the Budget, opposes this legislation. The Department's argument is that the provisions of the Bill can be accomplished through FSI facilities and through programs under existing legislation. Moreover, the Department has stated that this legislation could impose a real obstacle to "open" competition in the final selection of class 7 and 8 Foreign Service Officers.
7. In a hearing on this Bill on 29 January 1970, Senator Claiborne Pell (D., R.I.), who is Chairman of the Subcommittee on Education of the Committee on Labor and Public Welfare, queried State Department witnesses (Howard Mace and Joseph Toner) to ascertain whether the Central Intelligence Agency concurred in State's objection to this legislation. [] of the [] STAT

Office of Legislative Counsel has been in touch with members of the staff of the Subcommittee and of the staff of Senator Pell indicating that we are reviewing State's position on S.939 and that there was tentative feeling that this was a matter of primary interest and concern to the Department of State. In the meantime, the Office of Legislative Counsel has asked this Office to take steps to formulate an Agency position on S.939.

8. Should this legislation be passed, this Agency would undoubtedly be approached by the Board of Trustees of the Foreign Service Corps to determine our personnel requirements in the field of foreign relations and overseas assignments with a view toward appointing graduates of the Corps to staff positions. This would pose no great problem provided this Agency continued to impose its own selection criteria and hiring standards regardless of the fact that members of the Foreign Service Corps had passed competitive examinations at the start of their student careers.

9. It is recommended that the Office of Legislative Counsel be advised to tell the Senator and the Subcommittee that, while we believe this legislation is a matter of primary interest to the Department of State, we have no particular grounds upon which to oppose it; but should a Foreign Service Corps be established, we will have to continue to apply the same procedures of selection and clearance for the appointment of professional personnel as we apply today.

Robert S. Wattles
Director of Personnel

The recommendation contained in paragraph 9 is approved:

/s/ L. K. White

10 FEB 1970

L. K. White
Executive Director-Comptroller

Date

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